

Ryan Yarrington – Community Development Dept.

Presentation Notes

Date:	02/14/2017
Presenters(s):	Ryan Yarrington – Private Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems (POWTS, Septic Sys)
Key Impacts:	<p><u>Potential impacts:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal rates of nitrogen from septic systems are only 10-40% 2. Impact of phosphorous leaking into lakes, rivers and streams 3. Important role geology plays – soil structure, depth and karst 4. EPA Quote: “one of the main causes of ground water contamination in the US is the effluent from septic tanks, cesspools and privies.”
Data Needs or Gaps:	<p><u>More information is needed on:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What assurances exist to assure POWTS are designed by licensed engineers and installed by qualified contractors? 2. Do all lenders do “time of sale” inspections? What about land contracts or when lender is not involved? 3. Ryan stated POWTS are good at removing pharmaceuticals. Neil Koch stated they are not broken down in septic and drain field, nor treated in municipals. 4. What about products flushed or poured into a system to assist breakdown: are they pollutants and can they be restricted? 5. Importance of identifying what the county can and cannot do legally. 6. Current condition of the County’s streams, rivers and lakes?
Policy or Program Gaps:	<p><u>Existing policies, rules, or programs do not appear to address:</u></p> <p>State statutes not sufficient to control nitrogen leaching and the County cannot be more restrictive.</p>
Opportunities for Action:	<p><u>Planning, study, monitoring, and tracking</u></p> <p>Potentially create inventory of older (e.g. pre-1967) septic systems that includes inspection and monitoring.</p>
	<p><u>Rules, regulations, permitting, and compliance</u></p> <p>WI State Statute 145.13, WI Administrative Code PSP Chapter 383-385 establishes uniform standards and criteria. WI State Statute 145.01(05) “Governmental Unit responsible for regulation of private sewage systems...means the County.”</p>
	<p><u>Best practices and programming</u></p> <p>For new POWTS, County should be involved earlier in the POWTS process, i.e. at soil testing time to make recommendations on the most appropriate septic to install based on the soil test. Ryan: “When sited properly POWTS and Land Application of Septage can be beneficial to recharge groundwater, recycle nutrients and reduce fertilizer needs.” But also: “POWTS are very good at removing phosphorous, pathogens, and pharmaceuticals, but not great at removing nitrates without additional treatment.”</p>
	<p><u>Education, communications, and other</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education is often very worthwhile, but it’s very tough to measure any tangible impact (i.e. even when we know what we <i>should</i> do, it’s not always what we end up doing). 2. Continue “at the counter” education and submission of notices, etc. in media sources. Emphasis on proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and rationale for.